

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SP-02

AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 /077 W

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FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1646

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2381

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 07361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EFIN

SUBJECT: EC FINANCE MINISTERS COUNCIL JULY 26: EC POSITION ON

CIEC IMPASSE

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 26 THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL DISCUSSED AN AMBIVALENT FRENCH PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT CIEC IMPASSE, WHICH WILL BE MENTIONED AS AN ASPECT OF A DUTCH PRESIDENCY REPORT TO A HIGH- LEVEL GROUP MEETING TODAY IN BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THEIR JULY 26 COUNCIL SESSION, THE EC FINANCE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE CIEC IMPASSE OVER THE DEBT ISSUE. ACCORDING TO A COUNCIL SOURCE, THE FRENCH MADE PROPOSAL THAT THE EC MAINTAIN A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, BASED UPON CASE-BY-CASE TREATMENT OF DEBT MATTERS WITHIN THE GENERAL GUIDELINES OF THE NAIROBI RESOLUTION. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE COUNCIL DID NOT ADOPT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH MOST DELEGATIONS WERE SYMPATHETIC. THE PURPOSE OF THE FINANCE MINISTERS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO GIVE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE HIGH-LEVEL GROUP THAT THE EC SHOULD GIVE A SIGNAL OF A POSITIVE APPROACH WITHOUT A CHANGE IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY POSITION. ONE DELEGATION STRESSED THE NEED FOR FULL
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COORDINATION WITH THE G-8 BEFORE GOING FORWARD WITH ANY

PROPOSAL. AT HIS POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE, DUTCH FINANCE MINISTER DUSENBERG, THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, STATED THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL REPRESENTED A CONTINUATION OF THE BASIC EC POSITION AT NAIROBI. THE PROPOSAL IS TO BE INCLUDED IN A DUTCH PRESIDENTIAL REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S CIEC DISCUSSIONS, TO BE PRESENTED TODAY TO A HIGH-LEVEL GROUP MEETING HEADED BY DUTCH STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST (REFTEL).

3. PERMREP SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT, ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED, IT REMAINS ONLY PART OF THE REPORT BEING PRESENTED TO THE BRINKHORST GROUP. WE WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL LATER TODAY WHETHER THE EC COMMISSION WILL ALSO PRESENT A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL (PARA 7 REFTEL).

4. ONE COUNCIL AND ONE PERMREP SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT, OF THE BRINKHORST GROUP CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT ON AN EC POSITION TODAY, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE MATTER WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.
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